

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7005

By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION to call for a member to resign from any leadership position held by such member until an ethics complaint pending for more than two weeks is finally resolved.

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2005, the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by proclamation, called the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly into extraordinary session on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, at eleven o'clock, central standard time; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the extraordinary session is for the General Assembly to conduct a comprehensive review of current state laws, rules policies, and practices related to ethics in government and to enact legislation to implement broad reforms in these areas; and

WHEREAS, the need for an extraordinary session to enact a comprehensive rewrite of the ethics laws relating to the operation of government in Tennessee was clearly brought to light by the May 26, 2005, arrests of four members of the General Assembly based upon indictments returned to the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee alleging violations of federal law relating to extortion and bribery and by the investigations entered into by the ethics committees of both houses of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the ability of a member to effectively act in a leadership capacity is potentially affected while such member is under investigation; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an efficient investigatory process and for decisive resolution of ethical matters; and

WHEREAS, if this General Assembly is currently seeking to regain the confidence and trust of the citizens of this State, it is imperative that all actions by the General Assembly are conducted in a manner that is above reproach and avoids even the slightest appearance of impropriety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that if an ethics complaint has been filed against any member of the House of Representatives and such ethics complaint has not been resolved within two (2) weeks from the date the complaint was filed, then the member shall resign from any leadership position held by such member until the pending ethics complaint is finally resolved.